

Letters to the Editor

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Mistaken Meaning

In your editorial of Sept. 22 you quote correctly my remark that when I saw and heard American bombers in North Vietnam recently, I felt like shooting them down myself. But when you infer from this that I wish to "take American lives," you entirely mistake my meaning. To suggest that I am "against (my) countrymen" is absurd. I want to preserve all our lives.

What I am against is our policy of violence. The agents of that policy, our bomber crews, seen from a North Vietnamese dugout, are devils deserving destruction, but I know very well they are the victims of that policy, not the culprits.

Having seen the destruction our bombs have wrought in North Vietnam, and having actually witnessed, while crouched in a foxhole, an American aircraft releasing one of those bombs, I could see only what the Vietnamese saw—an unprovoked instrument of destruction. At that moment I did indeed feel I would like to destroy the destroyer.

What I mean, of course, is that I want to stop this senseless destruction and save our men and all men. That is "the thoughtful opinion" you invite me to express.

I am sorry you have seen fit to scold Women Strike for Peace. I cannot help thinking that your strictures on us will have the same effect as our bombs on the North Vietnamese, or as the Nazi bombs on the Londoners in 1940. They simply strengthen the will to resist violence.

DAGMAR WILSON,
Women Strike for Peace.

Washington.

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